# **Spiritual NOT Religious**

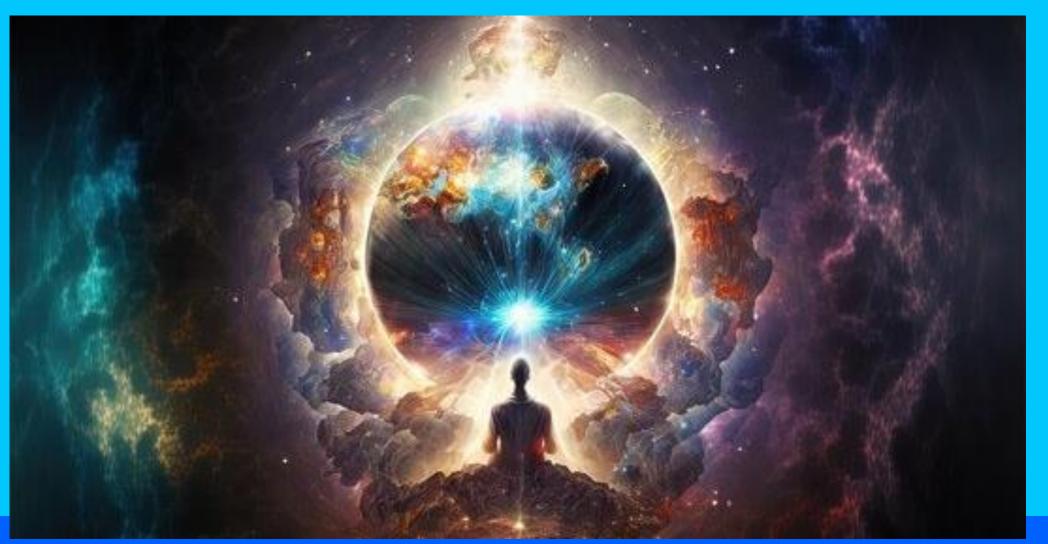
Dr. Daniel Wegener January 10, 2024

Great for you, but what about society?



## Spiritual — Oxford

- opposed to material or physical things
- 2. Relating to religion or religious beliefs



# 1. Relating to or affecting the human spirit or soul as





## **Religious — Merriam-Webster**

- acknowledged ultimate reality or deity
- observances.



# 1. Relating to or manifesting faithful devotion to an

### Of, or relating to, or devoted to religious beliefs or



## **Church Membership and Attendance?**

### New York Magazine

- Belong to a House of Worship
  - 1937 73 %
  - 2019 47 %
  - Millennials 36 %

# By 2070 less than half Christians

## **Church Membership and Attendance**

### Forbes Magazine

 No religious preference — 1998 — 8 % 2020 — 21 % **Members:** 

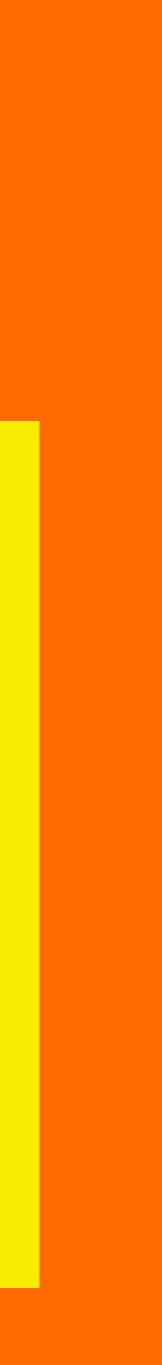
 Born before (76 +)

 Boomers (57-75)

 Gen-Xers (43 - 58)

 Millenials (27 - 42)

66 % 58 % 50 % 46 %

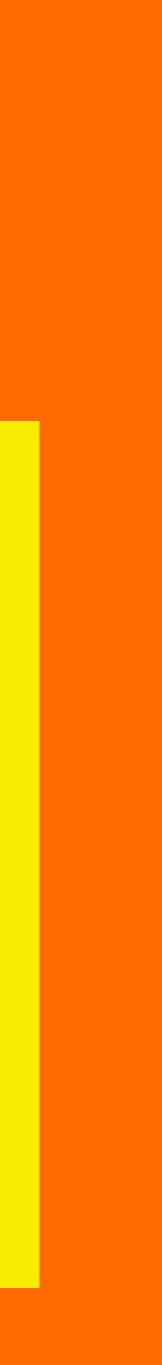


## **Membership and Attendance**

### Fox News

- - Went to college
  - Started work
  - Church or pastor related (not feeling connected) 73 %
  - Religious, ethical, or political beliefs differed 70 %
  - Unconnected to church leadership 63 %

### 66 % of young adults (18 to 22) stopped attending in last 10 years



# WHY?

## Will...

# Workism Paganism



# Prevail?

# MATERIALISM — Oxford

**Comfort as more important than spiritual values** 

2. A preoccupation or stress upon material rather than. intellectual things

# 1. A tendency to consider material possessions or physical



# INDIVIDUAL ISM

- Social fragmentation
- Economic inequality
- Family breakdown
- Other dysfunctions both personal and social

It's not just about religion—it's about society itself!

# Robert Bellah, Social Historian of U.S.

# CONSEQUENCES

### **EXAMPLE:**

### University of Pennsylvania study in 2001

### **Congregations contributed \$ 250 Million to Metro Philadephia IN JUST ONE YEAR!**

333 Cities in U.S. (100,000 +) x 250 Million = 83,250,000,000



# "Unchurching of America"

- Americans are re-writing rules for a spiritual life
- Some churches becoming more like corporations
- Some attend to be fed spiritually like a spectator
- Others seek mutual participation and to be active
- CHURCH a place or a community?



# Spirituality

 Listen and then ACT Information to application and action "Love thy neighbor" —. concept only or pattern of behavior?

# Conclusion

## We are re-defining:

- Religiousness
- Spirituality
- Community
- Identity
- Church
- American Society



